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OCI No. 2927/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
26 September 1963

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: CIA Reporting on the Dominican Republic

1. Since the inauguration of President Bosch, CIA has consistently reported that his administration was not coping with its problems, that it was permitting Communist infiltration, that for these reasons it was in danger of a rightist overthrow, and that September and October were critical months. CIA also reported the rising political tension of the last few weeks, identified most of the leaders of yesterday's coup as disaffected and engaged in plotting, and indicated that the crisis was rapidly coming to a head. It did not pinpoint the exact circumstances under the overthrow actually took place.

2. Some excerpts from pertinent intelligence issuances follow.

a. CIA Memorandum, 14 June 1963

There is currently under way a concerted campaign to discredit Bosch by charging that he is himself a crypto-Communist engaged in establishing a Communist dictatorship, or else that his ineptitude will lead to a Communist takeover in the Dominican Republic. Manifestly, this campaign represents the reaction of vested interests who see their privileged position threatened by Bosch's revolutionary purposes. It also reflects genuine concern regarding Bosch's remarkably tolerant attitude toward Communist activities.

With reason, Bosch believes that the principal immediate threat to the accomplishment of his mission is the possibility of a reactionary coup....

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The present danger of Bosch from the right resides in the fact that he does not have effective personal control over the armed forces and the national police. A military move to depose him might be instigated by disaffected civilians who see their vested interest threatened by his reformist programs, or by the personal ambition of a military leader. The principal deterrent to such a move is the well-known attitude of the US in support of the Bosch administration as the duly elected constitutional government.

b. Central Intelligence Bulletin 9 August 1963

President Bosch and disgruntled conservative military and civilian leaders are increasingly at odds.

...recent political developments make a move against Bosch--or his resignation--a growing possibility. Military leaders are increasingly concerned about Communist activity and Bosch is unlikely to meet their demands for a crackdown.

During September and October, domestic unemployment--already high and a major economic problem--is due to rise sharply, and Bosch's inability to implement popular reforms could be another reason precipitating a showdown.



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f. Current Intelligence Weekly Review (CIWR)
16 August 1963

President Juan Bosch of the Dominican Republic plans key changes in his cabinet and possibly will make other moves aimed at staving off a growing threat of his removal from office.

Ambassador Martin attributes Bosch's multifarious political troubles largely to the President's [REDACTED] failure to accomplish significant reform.... /He is/ still unwilling to restrict Communist activities. Many opposition charges on the latter issue are vague and calculated to foster an atmosphere favorable to a coup, but Bosch's failure to take any effective action is a source of genuine concern to many Dominicans.

g. [REDACTED]

Bosch expects increased efforts to overthrow his government during September 1963, including assassination attempts. He believes that General Antonio Imbert Barrera, who was a member of the council

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of state and one of the two survivors of the assassination of the late Dominican dictator, is involved in these plans. The removal of Miolan from the political scene is an attempt to decrease the possibility of an overthrow by the military or right-wing opposition groups.

h. CIB, 17 August 1963

Associates of President Bosch fear that a coup led by elements of the Dominican Air Force is imminent.

Angel Miolan, leader of Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party, reportedly believes that the current period is critical for the government. He thinks that Viriato Fiallo, leader of the right-wing National Civic Union, is giving moral support to air force plotters and hopes to be a member of a civilian-military junta that would succeed Bosch.

i. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
said that he has received a substantial number of letters from military personnel and civilians in the Dominican Republic, expressing the hope that he can be counted on if a crisis develops. [REDACTED] deplored the fact that the Dominican armed forces are being destroyed by Communist infiltration and by the deliberate acts of Bosch. Explaining the latter, he said that the Dominican armed forces are being converted from soldiers into smugglers, particularly citing the air force, which he said is engaged in smuggling of arms and merchandise from Miami, Florida, into San Isidro Air Force Base in the Dominican Republic.

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j. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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President Juan Bosch has been meeting daily with selected young Dominican army officers in order to win their confidence so that he can count on their support when he revolts against the older military officers.

k. CIB, 14 September 1963

President Bosch's opponents may try to take advantage of his 14-17 September visit to Mexico to promote plans for ousting him.

The chance of an early move against Bosch by the military may have increased. Armed Forces Minister Victor Elby Vinas Roman--a supporter of constitutional Government--seems to be losing his restraining influence on military leaders hostile to the President.

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Mounting evidence that Rib, air force commander General Atila Luna Perez, and other officers have been using their positions for personal gain has heightened existing tension between them and the government. (Published in

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1. [REDACTED]

At approximately 1900 hours it was learned [REDACTED] that Dominican troops had been confined to quarters.

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During 15 September APCJ President Manuel Tavaréz Justo cancelled a meeting with a member of his organization that had been scheduled for the night of 15 September, saying that he was called out on a very important matter. [REDACTED] comment: Tavaréz was probably concealing his whereabouts for fear of a possible coup.)

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m. CIWR, 20 September 1963

The growing political isolation of Dominican President Juan Bosch appears to be increasing chances of his ouster, with extreme leftist elements the possible long-range beneficiaries.... The survival of the Bosch regime is increasingly threatened by the President's inability to bring about a rapid economic and social "revolution" and by a political atmosphere charged with a mixture of opportunism and genuine concern about domestic Communism.

The President is especially handicapped by a lack of personal loyalty from military and police leaders, whose support is crucial to his remaining in office.

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